

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses and requests reconsideration.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 16-17, 19-20, 23, 28 and 33 have been amended. Claims 5, 13, 15, and 22 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added in the aforementioned claim amendments.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph, as being based on a disclosure which is allegedly not enabling. Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the basis of this rejection, Applicant notes that the rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 22.

Claims 1, 21, 23 and 25-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,501,480 to MacInnis et al. ("MacInnis"). As to claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the claim currently requires, among other things:

a plurality of video graphics pipelines wherein each ... is ... operable to process a corresponding image layer ... wherein each of the foremost graphics image layer and the corresponding image layers are operatively received from at least one frame buffer;

a blending module ... operable to blend the corresponding image layers in a predetermined blending order, thereby creating an intermediate blending image, and blending the intermediate blending image with the foremost graphics image layer to produce an output image having the foremost graphics image layer blended in a foremost position ... wherein the blending module is selectively controllable to blend the intermediate blended image with the foremost image layer in accordance with an alpha blending convention or an AND/XOR blending convention. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that MacInnis appears to be silent as to at least each of the above referenced claim limitations as currently amended. Specifically, Applicant notes that MacInnis appears to be directed to a system wherein graphics data may be alpha blended with other graphics data prior to storage in a frame buffer. (See e.g., FIG. 2, elements 58 and 59; FIG. 3, elements 58 and 59; FIG. 4, element 94; column 5, lines 24-37). Accordingly, because

MacInnis appears to be directed to a system wherein graphics data is only alpha blended prior to storage in a frame buffer, and does not appear to be capable of blending an intermediate blended image with the foremost graphics image layer in accordance with an alpha blending convention or an AND/XOR blending convention, Applicant's claim 1 appears to be in proper condition for allowance.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that MacInnis is silent as to claim 1's requirement that the blending module is selectively controllable to blend an intermediate blended image with the foremost graphics image layer in accordance with either an alpha blending convention or an AND/XOR blending convention, as claimed. Applicant is unable to find any teaching or suggestion in the publication with respect to this selectability feature. Thus, this reason alone places claim 1 in proper condition for allowance.

Applicant further notes that neither the reference nor the Office action appears to teach or suggest any "AND/XOR blending". Instead, the Office action citation to column 14, ll. 9-14 of MacInnis appears to be directed to chroma keying that "compares the color of each pixel to a reference color or to a range of possible colors; if the pixel matches the reference color, or if the color falls within the specified range of colors, then the pixel is determined to be transparent. Otherwise it is determined to be opaque." (Column 14, lines 9-14). The reference further appears to suggest that an alpha value may range between 0 and 1. (Column 14, line 9). Applicant respectfully submits that the claim rejection fails to properly consider the claim language as the claim specifically requires AND/XOR blending and does not merely set the upper and lower boundary for an alpha value range. Thus, for at least this reason, the publication fails to teach or suggest any sort of AND/XOR blending as claimed and claim 1 is believed to be allowable over MacInnis.

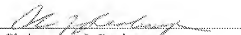
Claims 12, 28 and 33 contain limitations that are similar to one or more of the above limitations highlighted above with respect to claim 1. Thus, for at least these reasons, the independent claims 12, 28 and 33 are also believed to be allowable.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-11, 14, 16-21, 23, 25-27, and 29-32 each depend upon an allowable base claim. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully believes that these dependent claims are also allowable over the cited prior art. It is further Applicant's belief that the dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted.

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